Since M/s GPCL is not the executing the project, the requisite 'in-principle' clearance could not be accorded and the proposal was returned by CEA in October, 1996.

Research Work in New Fields

2804. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any facilities are being provided to scientists and researchers in the field of technology to update their research works;

(b) if so, the new fields wherein research works have been made during the last five years; and the achievements therein so far;

(c) whether any research has been made about the use of CNG in the automotive and other industries; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the new areas where research work has been carried out in the last five years are :—

Membranes, New materials, Robotics, Organic polymers, Computer aided design, Protein folding and Protein Engineering, Laser processing materials, Titanium and Magnesium production materials, New drug design etc.

Some of the achievements are :—

High efficiency fluroscence lamps have been developed by using some phosphor material; Membrane technology developed for concentration of milk, viral and toxoid based vaccines, providing safe drinking water etc.; Development of software modules for ship design and production; Development of indigenous design for cross flow turbine for micro hydel applications; BOD Sensors; Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells; Technology developed for blood oxygenator.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The indigenously developed system is under trial.

UPSEB

2805. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the dues from the various Government departments in Uttar Pradesh and Kanpur city in particular, to State Electricity Board; and

(b) the steps are being proposed for the early recovery of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The organisation wise/area-wise dues of the SEBs including the UPSEB are not maintained by the Central Government. However, from the audited accounts of UPSEB for 1995-96, it is noted that the total receivables against supply of power by the Board was Rs. 3322.45 crores. The action for recovery of these outstanding rests with the UPSEB/State Government.

Crude Oil

2806. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of crude and refined products in Idnia are low in comparison to international prices;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any intention to bring them at par with international prices;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether prices of both domestic crude oil and refined products are likely to be fixed by the Oil Coordination Committee and also to fix consumer prices of administered products on quarterly basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and its effect on consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Presently, the domestic prices of crude oil and petroleum products are administered by the Government and are fixed taking into consideration production cost, cost of imported products and crude oil and socio economic factors. The private sector/joint venture crude oil producers are being paid international prices under the production sharing contracts. The prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuations from time to time.

Bottling Plants

2807. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sanad, Bhavnagar and Palanpur Bottling Plants have been commissioned and have started functioning;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any plan for good marketing network in Gujarat keeping in view the increased availability of LPG, after commissioning of above plants; and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-commissioning of the plants and non-formulation of marketing plan?